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CHANNEL: n/a

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EXCISE

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ACTION PM-02

| | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-17 | AMAD-01 | CCO-00 | CG-00 | CIAE-00 | CIP-10 |
| | COME-00 | CTME-00 | CFE-00 | C-01 | OASY-00 | DODE-00 | DOEE-00 |
| | DOTE-00 | EAP-01 | EB-01 | EUR-01 | FMC-01 | H-01 | TEDE-00 |
| | INR-00 | L-03 | ADS-00 | NEA-01 | NRRC-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 |
| | OES-09 | OMB-01 | PA-01 | PRS-01 | P-01 | RPCS-01 | SDEL-00 |
| | SNP-00 | SP-00 | SS-00 | STR-16 | TRSE-00 | TST-00 | T-00 |
| | USIE-00 | SA-01 | CORE-00 | SSD-01 | /072W | | |

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6594

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
(*) RELEASE () DECLASSIFY
() EXCISE () DECLASSIFY EO Citations B /
() DENY IN PART
FOIA Exemptions () CLASSIFY as () S or () C Sec.
PA Exemptions () DOWNGRADE IS to () S or () C

SECRET SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIJING 027998

E.O. 12356:DECL:OADR

TAGS: PARM, ETTC, CBW, CH, IR, EWWT, PHSA

SUBJECT: CHINESE DEMARCHE ON "YIN HE" -- VESSEL

ORDERED TO STEAM TO DUBAI

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REF: (A) STATE 236236, (B) ABU DHABI 6338

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: CHINESE ASSISTANT MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS QIN HUASUN, IN AN "URGENT" AUGUST 6 DEMARCHE TO AMBASSADOR ROY, INFORMED THE USG THAT THE SHIP "YIN HE" HAS BEEN ORDERED TO PROCEED TO THE PORT OF DUBAI, AND CHINA EXPECTS THE USG TO INTERCEDE WITH THE UAEG TO PERMIT ITS ENTRY. QIN ALSO ASKED THAT THE USG DO NOTHING TO OBSTRUCT THE VESSEL'S PROGRESS. QIN STATED THAT THE CHINESE ALSO HOLD THE USG RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC LOSSES INCURRED DUE TO THE INTERRUPTION OF THE SHIPS SCHEDULE. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WE WOULD NOT OBSTRUCT THE PROGRESS OF THE VESSEL TOWARD DUBAI, BUT COULD NOT GUARANTEE THE UAE AUTHORITIES

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WOULD ALLOW IT TO DCK. FND SUMMARY.

3. PRC MFA ASSISTANT MINISTER QIN HUASUN URGENTLY SUMMONED THE AMBASSADOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THE MORNING OF AUGUST 6 TO DELIVER A DEMARCHE ON THE CHINESE VESSEL "YIN HE," WHICH THE U.S. BELIEVES TO BE CARRYING CHEMICAL WEAPONS PRECURSORS TO IRAN. QIN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY U.S. DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHI LONGZHUANG. THE AMBASSADOR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY POLOFFS AND INTERPRETOR JAMES BROWN.

4. QIN THANKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR RESPONDING QUICKLY TO HIS REQUEST, SAYING THAT TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE. HE THEN READ A STATEMENT IN CHINESE, WHICH IS PRESENTED IN PARA 5 BELOW. THE STATEMENT CONTAINS THE
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FOLLOWING KEY POINTS:

--THE CAPTAIN OF THE "YIN HE" HAS BEEN ORDERED TO PROCEED TO DUBAI;

--THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ASKS THE U.S. TO ENSURE THAT THE YIN HE WILL NOT BE OBSTRUCTED IN ITS ENTRY INTO DUBAI; AND

--THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HOLDS THE "U.S. SIDE" RESPONSIBLE FOR (ECONOMIC) LOSSES RESULTING FROM THE DELAY IN THE SHIP' SCHEDULE.

5. OFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF NON-PAPER PRESENTED BY QIN:

[REDACTED]

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END TEXT.

6. THE AMBASSADOR THANKED QIN FOR THIS INFORMATION AND CONFIRMED THAT THE U.S. SIDE WAS INDEED MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THE EARLIER CHINESE OFFER TO CONDUCT A JOINT INSPECTION OF THE CARGO AFTER IT WAS UNLOADED IN DUBAI. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT THE U.S. WAS AWARE OF THE CHINESE VIEWPOINT THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE USG WAS INCORRECT. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS A BASIS FOR THE INFORMATION AND THOUGHT THE INSPECTION WAS A GOOD IDEA TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION.

7. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT SINCE THE LAST MEETING THE USG HAS TRIED TO FACILITATE ACTION TO ALLOW THE

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SHIP TO CONTINUE TO ITS INTENDED PORTS OF CALL. HE
SAID THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, NOT ALL OF THE
PROBLEMS WERE SOLVED, AND THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS WERE CONTINUING. THE AMBASSADOR
THEN ASSURED QIN HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY INFORM
WASHINGTON THAT CHINA HAS INSTRUCTED THE SHIP TO
PROCEED TO DUBAI.

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8 [REDACTED]
TO FACILITATE DOCKING IN DUBAI. THE AMBASSADOR THEN
ASSURED QIN THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE
SHIP'S PASSAGE TO DUBAI.

9. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME
THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE WORKED TOGETHER IN REGARD TO
A MATTER HAVING TO DO WITH THE CWC. THE AMBASSADOR
STATED THAT OUR INTENT THROUGHOUT HAD BEEN TO QUICKLY
PASS INFORMATION TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, DETERMINE
WHAT ACTION WAS NECESSARY, THEN TO TAKE SUCH ACTION.
THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THERE MAY BE LESSONS
TO LEARN FROM THIS EPISODE WHICH WOULD ALLOW OUR
GOVERNMENTS TO COMMUNICATE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN THE
FUTURE. HE STATED THAT IT WAS CLEAR FROM CHINA'S
RESPONSE THAT CHINA IS ALSO TRYING TO CLARIFY THE
SITUATION.

10. AS TO COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES INCURRED BY THIS
SHIP, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT THE MOST
IMPORTANT ISSUE AT HAND, WHICH WAS TO WORK TOGETHER TO
IMPLEMENT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CWC. NEVERTHELESS, HE

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WOULD REPORT THE CHINESE CONCERN IMMEDIATELY TO
WASHINGTON.

11. QIN RESPONDED BY STATING THAT THE CONCERN OVER
COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES INCURRED BY THE "YIN HE" WAS
SHARED BY BOTH THE MFA AND THE SHIPPING COMPANY. QIN
SAID THAT THERE WERE OTHER POINTS ON WHICH THE CHINESE
AND U.S. DIFFERED, BUT THAT A LACK OF TIME PRECLUDED
HIM FROM GOING INTO DETAIL.

12. QIN EXPRESSED THANKS FOR THE U.S. GUARANTEE NOT
TO INTERFERE IN THE PASSAGE OF THE SHIP AND HOPED THE
U.S. SIDE WOULD TAKE ACTION TO ALLOW THE SHIP TO LAND
IN DUBAI.

13. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THE UAE WAS A
SOVEREIGN NATION AND THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT SPEAK ON
ITS BEHALF, JUST AS THE U.S. COULD NOT SPEAK ON THE
BEHALF OF CHINA. [REDACTED]

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14. [REDACTED] QIN THEN
SAID THAT AS THIS PROBLEM WAS RAISED BY THE U.S., AND,
AS THE U.S. ACTION CAUSED THE UAE GOVERNMENT TO
PREVENT THE "YIN HE" FROM DOCKING AT THE PORT IN
DUBAI, HE EXPECTED THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO
PERSUADE THE UAEG TO REVERSE ITS DECISION AND ALLOW
THE "YIN HE" TO DOCK.

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15. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE U.S. NEVER ASKED OR
INTENDED FOR THE UAEG TO PREVENT THE "YIN HE" FROM
DOCKING IN DUBAI. HE REITERATED HIS PROMISE TO PASS
THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CHINESE IMMEDIATELY TO
WASHINGTON. ROY

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